

THE CONTRIBUTION OF IULIU MOLDOVAN ON THE INTERRELATION BETWEEN DRUG AND SOCIETY

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Summary

The aim of the paper is to present two levels of Iuliu Moldovan contributions in the field of the correlations between drugs and society.

Iuliu Moldovan (1882-1966) studied medicine in Vienna and Prague. Between 1908 and 1914 he was Assistant at the Central Bacteriological Laboratory of the Army in Vienna, directed by Robert Doerr. Then Moldovan became the first professor of Hygiene and Social Hygiene at the Cluj Faculty of Medicine (1919-1947). He remained in the history of medicine as one of the most important lieder in creating the modern public health in Romania. In 1930 he was State Secretary at the Health Ministry. As researcher he studied the role of the reticulo-endothelial system in immune reactions. For treating some immunological illnesses he created a new drug named "Reticulina M".

As State Secretary Moldovan elaborated a modern health law which stressed the role of prophylaxis. Moldovan initiated in this law a special chapter, which dealt with drug control. It was written by Professor Gheorghe P. Pamfil (1883-1965).

Iuliu Moldovan (1882-1966) was one of the most important Romanian physicians of the XX century. He was the first professor and director of the Department of Hygiene and Social Hygiene in Cluj (1919-1947). This department was part of the Cluj Faculty of Medicine. He created the Cluj School of Social Hygiene. This School was the principal axis of the beginning of the modern public health in Romania (1).

He was educated in a German atmosphere. Between 1889 and 1893 he was pupil at the Primary Evangelic School in Medias. Then, until 1900, he was pupil at the Medias Secondary School. It is important to mention that at these two schools the courses were in German.

In 1900 he became student at Vienna Faculty of Medicine. At that time this faculty "was one of the most brilliant and point of attraction for learning, especially in clinics and in pathology" (2). Meantime, he attended courses of philosophy, sciences and law, which helped him in understanding the profound significances of medicine, especially in biological and social point of view, but also in developing his culture (3). All these knowledge he used afterwards in building his social hygienic conception.

In October 1903, he continued his studies at the German Faculty of Medicine in Prague. At the beginning of the following year, he worked at the First Medical Clinic in Prague, directed by Professor Rudolf von Jaksch. Then, Moldovan worked in the Department of Pathology in the same Faculty, directed by Professor Hans Chiari (1851-1916). Between October 1905 and May 1906, Moldovan worked in the Dentistry Department of the University Policlinic in Prague, under the guidance of Prof. Heinrich Boenneken (1862-1937).

At the end of medical studies, Moldovan became lieutenant-physician at the Dermatologic Section of the First Garrison Hospital in Vienna. Then, in November 1908, he was engaged assistant captain physician at the Bacteriological Laboratory of the Austro-Hungarian Army in Vienna. The chief of the laboratory was Robert Doerr (1871-1952). Moldovan had this job until the beginning of the First World War. In 1912 he improved his knowledge for two month in the Hamburg Tropical Institute, under the guidance of Josef Mathias Stanislaus von Prowazek (1875-1915) and Henrique da Rocha-Lima (1879-1956). In 1913 Moldovan worked two month at the "Pasteur Institute" in Paris, directed by Felix-Etienne-Pierre Mesnil (1868-1938). In

1914 Moldovan made scientific researches in Rome, at the Institute directed by Umberto Gabbi (1860-1933).

In 1915 Moldovan became docent at the Vienna Faculty of Medicine. This title was the first one obtained by a Romanian physician. During the First World War he initiated important actions against contagious illnesses. At that time he had a significant position: chief hygienist and director of the antiepidemic section of the Austro-Hungarian Army. Even in the dramatic condition of the First World War, Moldovan published a review "Feldärztliche Blätter", which focused the campaign medicine. In the same year he organized a Congress "Feldärztliche Tagung". For this event he was helped by Professor O. Zuckerkandl. Prestigious physicians contributed at this scientific meeting, such as: Anton Freiherr von Eiselsberg (1860-1939), Alexander Fraenkel (1857-1941), Guyla Dollinger (1849-1937), Tibor von Verebely (1875-1941), Hans von Haberer (1875-1958), Viktor Lieblein (1869-1939) and Giudo Holzknecht (1872-1931) (4).

At the beginning of December 1918, Moldovan returned to Medias. In the 15th December 1918 he was elected General Secretary for Health and Social Assistance at the Department of Social Protection. This department was a part of the Ruling Council, which was the supreme authority in Transylvania and in Banat. These two Romanian provinces joined the Kingdom of Romania on 1st of December 1918. Moldovan had this important job for 14 month. During this period, he created a storehouse for drugs in Sibiu. Its director was Gheorghe Cuteanu.

In July 1919 Moldovan became member of the University Commission. This commission was created for selecting the academic staff for the new University in Cluj. The University was composed by 4 faculties, one of them being the Faculty of Medicine.

On the 1st September 1919 he became Professor and Director of the Hygiene and Social Hygiene Department of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj.

Since 1908 until 1947 Moldovan made researches about allergic reaction. These observations led to understanding of the antigen-antibody reaction. He also studied the physiological mechanisms of anaphylactic shock. In 1923 he discovered an anti-anaphylactic principle and entitled it "Reticulina M". The name "Reticulina" proceeded from the reticuloendothelial system (Latin: reticulum, net; Greck: endon, within + thele, nipple). The letter "M" was given as homage to Elie Metchnikoff (1845-1916) and proved the respect Moldovan had for the great immunologist. The "Reticulina M" was introduced in 1939 as a drug in clinical practice in different illnesses. The clinical and experimental results were published in the review "Clujul Medical" in 1940. The "Reticulina M" was used successfully in different infections, rheumatism, endocarditis, bronchial asthma, allergic dermatitis and arterial hypertension. "Reticulina M" was used also in the prevention of allergic rhinitis anaphylactic shock (5).

In 1928 Moldovan became General Secretary in the Health Ministry. Next year he gave an important decision regarding the establishment of the Chemicopharmaceutical Institute in Bucharest (6). The first director and organizer of this Institute became Professor Gheorghe P. Pamfil (1883-1965) – the founder and the leader of the Romanian Pharmaceutical learning in Cluj (1920-1934). At that time, Pamfil was Director of the Pharmaceutical Institute in Cluj. Pamfil taught courses of: chemical and galenic pharmacy between 1920-1934, medical chemistry between 1927-1934, opotherapeutical products and about commentaries on the Romanian Pharmacopoeia (7).

In 1930 Moldovan was elected State Secretary in the Health Ministry. Having this important function, he elaborated a new law regarding health and social protection. This law remained in the Romanian history of medicine as "Moldovan's law". It is useful to know that for creating the project of this law Moldovan cooperated with Professor Gheorghe P. Pamfil (8). Two significant results of this law were the unification of pharmaceutical activities and the severe control in pharmacies (9). Unfortunately, different changes of this law, made in 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1937 canceled its efficiency (10).

The academic career of Iuliu Moldovan and all his researches were brutally stopped in 1949, because he was imprisoned for political reasons. He was liberated in 1955. In the last years of his life he wrote his memories, which represent an important historical document. Moldovan remained in the history of medicine as one of the most important leaders in creating the modern public health in Romania.

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